

on what conditions the re-establishment would have been granted.¹

The frequent interviews between Madame Recamier and Madame de Stael were not calculated to bring Napoleon to sentiments and measures of moderation. He became more and more irritated at this friendship between two women formed for each other's society; and, on the occasion of one of Madame Recamier's journeys to Coppet he informed her, through the medium of Fouché, that she was perfectly at liberty to go to Switzerland, but not to return to Paris. "Ah, Monseigneur! a great man may be pardoned for the weakness of loving women, but not for fearing them." This was the only reply of Madame Recamier to Fouché when she set out for Coppet.² I may here observe that the personal

¹ Madame de Chevreuse had accepted the place of Dame du Palais to the Empress. When nominated to the same place with the Queen of Spain on the arrival in France of the Spanish Royal family, a family to which her Royalist leanings could not have indisposed her, who refused to go, having she was not made of the stuff for a jailor. The cruel treatment of Napoleon consisted in exiling her forty leagues from Paris. Madame Recamier had not much to complain of. Her father, M. Bernard, one of the administrators of the posts, used his privilege of franking letters to regularly circulate a Royalist journal attacking Napoleon and his family. Instead of being tried he was simply dismissed, and it is his proposed re-installment that is here alluded to. Forced to leave Paris by the failure of her husband's bank, Madame Recamier gave out that her absence was due to the Emperor, thus drawing down on her the order not to return. Absence from Paris would of course seem harsh to a Parisian, but English readers are often deluded by the use in such a case of the word "exile." See on the subject of these two ladies A. Warburton, tome v. pp. 9-10, and *Memoirs*, tome iii. pp. 140-152. The claims of Madame Recamier to distinction seem to have been her great beauty, and her skill in keeping her host of admirers, Benjamin Constant, etc., round her without granting them any substantial reward. Her *Souvenirs*, etc., are published; Paris, Levy, 1859.

² The beautiful Madame Recamier whose reputation stood unassailed during these stormy times in which few escaped censure, was residing with Madame de Stael, to whom she had heroically devoted herself, when one of the Prussian Princes, Prince Augustus, who had been made prisoner at Eylau, and who was proceeding to Italy by Napoleon's permission, alighted at the castle of Coppet, with the intention of resting only for a few hours. Here, however, he was detained during the whole of the summer by the charms of Madame Recamier, who was voluntarily sharing the exile of her friend. This lady and the young Prince both considered themselves as the victims of Napoleon, and their common hatred of him

whom they looked upon as their oppressor probably engendered the interest which they mutually conceived for each other. Inspired with an ardent passion the Prince, in spite of the difficulties which his exalted rank naturally suggested, conceived the idea of marrying Madame Ucpamier. He communicated his designs to Madame do Staul, whose poetic imagination prompted her to favor a scheme that was calculated to diffuse a sort of romantic interest over Coppet. The Prince was recalled to Berlin, but absence produced no change